

State Colin Powell, to use every opportunity to press for freedom and democracy in Burma.

I want to publicly encourage the Secretary to continue his outspoken call for freedom in Burma, and suggest some changes in the international strategy to bring about democracy and human rights in that country.

It is now clear that United Nations efforts to bring about democracy in Burma have completely failed. Rather than making progress, the efforts have simply bought time for the regime, and allowed it to perpetuate its increasingly brutal stranglehold on power. The United Nations envoy to Burma, rather than serving as a positive voice for change, has repeatedly bailed out the regime just as critical international pressure has begun to make a difference. His defense of the regime's head of military intelligence Khin Nyunt is beyond unacceptable.

It is time to review the personnel and mandate on the United Nations role in Burma, and to give a qualified mediator the tools they need, including access to the United Nations Security Council, to make a difference. The State Department should lead the efforts for these changes at the upcoming United Nations General Assembly.

The process is broken. We need to revamp this system with new actors as soon as possible.

TRIBUTE TO THE ORANGE &
BLACK NEWSPAPER

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 6, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I stand before this body of Congress and this nation to pay tribute to a remarkable newspaper produced by the students of Grand Junction High School and recently named the best large high school newspaper in the state of Colorado for the 2002–2003 school year. The Orange & Black student-run newspaper has a history of excellence in its journalistic efforts, as it has been one of the top newspapers in the state for seven years. I join with my colleagues today in recognizing the fine efforts of the students of Grand Junction High School and their remarkable newspaper.

Erik Lincoln and Sarah Shean, the co-editors-in-chief of the Orange & Black for the previous school year, have now moved onto Mesa State College and Gonzaga University respectively. But they have left an impressive mark for their successors by winning first place in the general excellence and graphic illustration categories. These editors have also instilled greatness in their peers that resulted in first place awards in informational graphics, personal opinion columns, personality feature, and headline writing categories.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to stand here today and recognize this fine example of stewardship and hard work in journalism by these dedicated high school students from Grand Junction. Their eloquent product demonstrates a mastery of photographic, written and editorial expression not often achieved by high school students.

INADEQUATE TREATMENT OUR
TROOPS AND VETERANS ARE
RECEIVING FROM THE ADMINIS-
TRATION

SPEECH OF

HON. JULIA CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 5, 2003

Ms. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, this past week we sent the largest supplemental appropriations bill ever written to the President. The majority of the money is to be used for the men and women serving in Iraq.

A total of \$64.7 billion in military funding was included in the bill. This includes:

A total of \$64.7 billion for military activities in support of military operations mainly in Iraq and Afghanistan.

\$39.2 billion for activities related to military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, including: \$24.0 billion for the Army, \$2.0 billion for the Navy, \$1.2 billion for the Marine Corps, and \$5.4 billion for the Air Force. The total includes an extra \$100 million to find and destroy conventional munitions in Iraq.

The agreement appropriates \$17.8 billion for military personnel, including: \$12.9 billion for the Army, \$816 million for the Navy, \$753 million for the Marine Corps and \$3.4 billion for Air Force personnel costs.

The funds are meant to cover the costs associated with the mobilization to active duty of reserve and National Guard personnel, including pay, travel, per diem, and health care and personnel necessary to maintain critical manning at authorized levels.

Extends TRICARE—the military's health care system—health coverage system to National Guard members and reservists and their families who lack health insurance and do not have access to employer-provided plans.

The measure authorizes continued payment of per diem for travel of family members of military personnel who are ill or injured as a result of active duty service, and continues the increased monthly rate of Imminent Danger Pay and Family Separation Allowances through Sept. 30, 2004.

The agreement includes \$55 million for travel costs of troops on rest and recuperation leave, including the cost of travel home from disembarkation points in the United States.

The measure provides \$32 million for family counseling, domestic violence prevention, and readjustment counseling and \$10 million for similar programs specifically for the National Guard.

Finally, the measure retroactively and permanently exempts servicemembers with combat-related injuries from the requirement of paying for subsistence meal charges while hospitalized.

The agreement appropriates \$5.5 billion to replenish equipment and munitions expended during military operations in Iraq and in the global war on terrorism. The total includes: \$142 million to repair or replace Bradley fighting vehicles, M1 Abrams tanks and other related equipment used in Iraq and Afghanistan; \$239 million for more armored High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled vehicles, or HUMVEEs; \$300 million to purchase additional body armor suits and modern flak jackets and to clear unexploded ordnance; and \$46 million for radio jammers to disrupt attempts by Iraqi

dissidents to explode remote controlled bombs and mines.

The measure also directs the Defense Department to increase the availability of modern hydration systems to soldiers in Iraq and to provide quarterly reports to Congress on department efforts to address equipment shortages.

The agreement provides \$525 million for military construction funds—\$112 million more than requested.

Most of the funds will go to construct new Air Force and Army facilities in Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Iraq, and other facilities providing support for operations in the Middle East and the global war on terrorism.

Defense Health Program—Provides \$658 million for military health care costs.

When these young men and women return from the Gulf, they are going to leave the service in droves. Morale is low, and these people cannot get home quick enough.

At the same time, the Republican leadership refused to include \$1.3 billion dollars in emergency veterans health funding, claiming that it will be included in the regular VA–HUD appropriations bill.

This severe funding shortfalls has resulted in health-care rationing among our veterans.

Over 200,000 are currently waiting 6 months or longer for initial and follow-up medical appointments; many are reporting that they are waiting 1 to 2 years.

The Veterans Administration, in order to meet this crisis, has taken steps to stop veterans from seeking care. The VA refuses to enroll any new Category 8 veterans.

Funding shortfalls are putting veteran safety and the quality of their care at ever greater risk. An April 2001 study sponsored by four Health and Human Services agencies confirmed that inadequate direct-care nurse staffing increases risks of urinary tract infections, pneumonia, shock, intestinal bleeding, and lengthy hospital stays.

Doctors and nurses under greater stress risk injury, too, as their increased workloads cause slower mental processing, diminished memory, and improper responses to patients.

TRIBUTE TO U.S. AIR FORCE CAPT.
SEAN KELLEY

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 6, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to honor a U.S. Air Force Captain who has performed a great service to this nation during Operation Iraqi Freedom. Capt. Sean Kelley was instrumental in the delivery of Mohammed Al-Rehaief—the man responsible for providing the information of Pfc. Jessica Lynch's whereabouts that ultimately led to her successful rescue on April 2nd from Saddam Hospital in Nasiriyah. I would like to join my colleagues here today and all Americans in recognizing Capt. Kelley's selfless service.

Capt. Kelley is a graduate of Gunnison High School who has dutifully served the Air Force since his commission in 1993. He has made many trips to the Middle East but his most recent delivery of an Iraqi man and his family to the safety of the United States is especially commendable. This delivery aided our troops